

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 10977 310947Z

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 /011 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9602

UNCLAS TEHRAN 10977

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLTON FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IR

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO IRAN-NOVIN PARTY CONGRESS

REF: STATE 283428; TEHRAN 10755

1. WE ARE CONCERNED BY DECISION OF REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEES NOT TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO IRAN-NOVIN PARTY CONGRESS IN TEHRAN JANUARY 11-13 (REF A). PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA PERSONALLY EXPRESSED TO ME HIS HOPE THAT U.S. WOULD BE REPRESENTED AT THIS CONGRESS WHICH WILL BE IMPORTANT STEP IN DEVELOPMENT OF MEANINGFUL PARTY SYSTEM IN IRAN. ABSENCE OF U.S. PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CONSPICUOUS AND WILL BE WIDELY CONSTRUED BY IRANIAN OFFICIALS AND PUBLIC AS SIGN OF AMERICAN INDIFFERENCE TO POLITICAL PROCESS HERE. SUCH AN IMPRESSION CLEARLY WOULD NOT BE IN U.S. INTEREST. I MIGHT ALSO POINT OUT PM'S OWN PRESTIGE IS INVOLVED BECAUSE HE IS HEAD OF IRAN-NOVIN PARTY.

2. I KNOW DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES HAVE ALREADY MADE A VALIANT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT AND I AM THUS TURNING TO YOU IN HOPE THAT YOU PERSONALLY WILL URGE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMEN TO RECONSIDER AND DESIGNATE SOME PRESTIGIOUS INDIVIDUAL, WHETHER AN OFFICIAL MEMBER OF THEIR COMMITTEES OR NOT, TO ATTEND ON THEIR BEHALF. PERHAPS A GOVERNOR, STATE PARTY OFFICIAL OR RETIRED CONGRESSMAN COULD PARTICIPATE. ROLE OF AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS WILL BE LARGELY CEREMONIAL, BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT SOMEONE REPRESENTING OUR PARTIES SHOW THE FLAG HERE. AS AN INDUCEMENT, YOU MIGHT POINT OUT THAT IRAN-NOVIN WILL PAY ALL EXPENSES FOR DELEGATES

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AND THEIR SPOUSES FOR FIVE-DAY VISIT TO IRAN, INCLUDING ROUND-

TRIP AIR FARE AND EXCURSION TO SHIRAZ AND PERSEPOLIS.

3. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO GET FAVORABLE
AND PROMPT RECONSIDERATION OF THIS QUESTION BY MR. STRAUSS AND
MRS. SMITH.
MIKLOS

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NNN

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